

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/684,641

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

Applicant(s)

TRESSER, CHARLES P.

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/15/03 and Amend. on 03/08/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-43.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/15/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Douglas Q. Tran
DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-43 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 23 are independent claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 1 and 23, the present invention from the application discloses a method and system for digital printing using error diffusion but without anisotropy associated with error diffusion, comprising "choosing several error diffusion algorithms along the chosen rasters, creating digital images of the input image using pairs of a chosen raster and a chosen algorithm, performing weighted averaging of said digital images obtained along the rasters, using some chosen set of weights to perform weighted averaging, so that an average value at each pixel can be rendered at that pixel".

The closest prior art such as Loce et al. (US Patent No. 7,079,289 B2), and Someno et al. (US Patent No. 7,050,194 B1) and Ostromoukhov et al. (US Patent No. 5,701,366), which is recorded on the Examiner's Remark, discloses fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner's Remark

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Loce et al. (US Patent No. 7,079,289 B2) discloses an image processing system operative to perform rank order error diffusion includes a pixel ranker operative to receive information about a set of selected neighboring pixels, and assign a rank to the selected neighboring pixels based on pixel values of the neighboring pixels, a thresholder operative to compare a pixel value of a pixel of interest to a threshold value to generate a comparison result, a marker operative to make a marking decision based on the comparison result, and an error diffuser operative to calculate an error value based on the pixel value of the pixel of interest and the marking decision, and to modify a value of at least one of the selected neighboring pixels, based on the rank of the selected neighboring pixel and the calculated error value.

Someno et al. (US Patent No. 7,050,194 B1) discloses the feed amount-setting unit then detects the positions of the respective nozzles in the printer and selects raster lines to be printed, based on the setting for the amount of sub-scan. The dither method may alternatively be applied for the halftone processing. The application selects either one of the error diffusion method and the dither method for the halftone processing according to the printing mode.

Ostromoukhov et al. (US Patent No. 5,701,366) discloses color management system also includes a halftoning mode selector which allows selection between halftoning by error diffusion process steps or halftoning by dithering process.

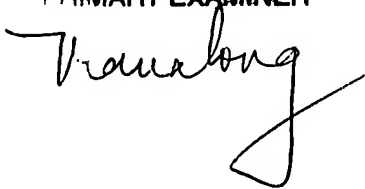
Art Unit: 2625

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7442.

Apr. 25, 2007

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tran Douglas', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.